

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 12 and 13 are rejected. Claims 3-11 and 14-20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been rewritten to overcome the objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 12, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,778,024 issued to Gupta (hereinafter “Gupta”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-2 and 12-13 as being anticipated by Gupta.

Independent claims 1 and 12 recite a sensor that is operable to detect performance variations of an individual circuit in an integrated circuit. Examiner has characterized the “trim circuit 200” disclosed in column 3, lines 10-25 of Gupta as a “sensing and compensation circuit.” Applicant respectfully submits that the trim circuit disclosed in Gupta corresponds to the “compensation circuit” recited in independent claims 1 and 12. Applicants further submit that Gupta does not disclose a sensor as recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

In view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-2 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 10, 2005.

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Respectfully submitted,

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